

Badger Honor Flight

<https://www.badgerhonorflight.org/>
(608) 616-0243
Secretary@badgerhonorflight.org



Upcoming Meetings

BHF Volunteer Meetings are typically held on the first Wednesday evening of each month.

June 1 – VFW 7591–301 Cottage Grove Rd Madison at 7:00pm

July 6 – VFW 7591–301 Cottage Grove Rd Madison at 7:00pm

August 3 – VFW 7591–301 Cottage Grove Rd Madison at 7:00pm

September 7 – Rex's Innkeeper 301 N Century Ave Waunakee at 7:00pm

October 5 – TBD

November 2 – TBD

December 7 – TBD

Greetings Badger Honor Flight Family of volunteers, many thanks for your time and talents. The Board of Directors wants you to know how much you are appreciated. We are a tight knit group with a common mission – Serving Those Who Served For US.

Badger Honor Flight volunteers come together as a family to give our Veterans the trip of a lifetime to visit the memorials built in their honor in Washington D.C.

Please share our newsletter with your friends that are interested in volunteering and have them email us their email address so that we can add them to our Badger Honor Flight family newsletter.

You are helping wonderful things happen for our Veterans – THANK YOU.

Email Jackie Woodruff at secretary@badgerhonorflight.org

Our Worst Kept Secret

TOP SECRET: OPERATION MAIL CALL

Badger Honor Flight departs from The Dane County Regional Airport in Madison and takes nearly 100 World War II, Korean War, Vietnam and Terminally ill veterans to Washington, DC to see several memorials built in their honor.

This is a trip of a lifetime for many. It is a very emotional day for these energetic men and women who sacrificed so much for the freedom and liberty of our country. Our goal is to make this a very memorable and personal experience for each of them.



We can do this with the help of the community, family and friends by asking you to express your thoughts and appreciation to your Veteran in our "Letters to Veterans Project."

Our Veteran letter writing project is an opportunity to thank the Veterans for their service and tell them how special they are to us. Unknown to the Veterans, these letters will become a permanent keepsake for them.

During the flight home, each Veteran will be given a large envelope filled with letters written especially for them by family, school children and members of the community, both young and old. Many tears have been witnessed on the plane ride home when the Veterans receive their letters and see that people have taken the time to write them a personal letter. Please avoid the depiction of guns.

To accomplish the goal of having 5 letters or more to give to each Veteran, we ask that you pass this request on to additional family members and friends so they may also participate.

Guidelines for the letters are set out below:

A few tips:

Make the letter out to "Dear Veteran," as we fly World War II, Korean and Vietnam War veterans.

Thank them for their service, for our freedoms and for our country.

These can be letters or cards.

Please do not draw violent pictures, but certainly include pictures like tanks, soldiers, US flags and other fun drawings. Please do not date them, as we may use these over multiple flights.

(Please, no glitter – seriously)

School children may color or draw pictures of flags, stars, soldiers, or write words like freedom, honor, thanks, hero, and so on. Use patriotic colors in your drawings. Please do not draw guns as some veterans may be sensitive to this depiction. You may add stickers to your papers if you would like.

Please send your letters on a large envelope to:

Badger Honor Flight Attn: Mail Call
PO Box 258066 Madison, WI 53725

Please contact Brian Ziegler sgtzeke@hotmail.com for questions or more information.



Miller & Sons Brat Stand

May 21, 2022, 10am to 2pm
210 S Main St Verona WI Contact:
Dewy Gillette
[fundrasing@badgerhonorflight.org](mailto:fundraising@badgerhonorflight.org)

Wollersheim Winery 6 yr old Red,
White and Blue Whiskey Event May
22 7876 WI-188, Prairie Du Sac, WI

Kopke's Greenhouse Auction May
29 3:00pm 1828 Sand Hill Rd,
Oregon, WI

Monroe Moose Lodge Breakfast
and raffle
June 5, 2022, 8am to noon
639 3rd Ave Monroe WI

Bergamont Golf Outing
June 13, 2022 POC Ben
Wanta/Maurie Mueller

BHF ATV Run at Rustic Saloon
June 25th, 2022, 9am
330 County Rd B Montello WI
Contact Tammi Alexander
tammibhf@outlook.com

Rock the Ramp
July 22, 2022
Capital Flight 8264 Airport Rd
Middleton WI

**2022 Larry Satterlee Sporting Clay
Shoot at Milford Hills**
October 10, 2022 POC Terry Phillips

Volunteer Meeting May 4, 2022

1. Fritz Military Appreciation month – Thank you to all that served
2. Check presentation: John Kuehl 3rd year Pool Plunge \$2280, McFarland Legion Post 534 Meat Raffle raised \$1500
3. Tom Cantwell & John Hilliard Villa Tap Chico \$1600
4. Intro of Board Members Vern Treasurer is absent
5. Checking Account Summary April 2022 Checkbook Balance \$ 117,808.64 Large Expenses May Flight Paid- American Airlines \$105,500.00 June Flight Due 5/1/ 22 \$55,410.00
6. Fundraising: see save the date section.
7. Oldest Vet John Hilliard got a sample hanging basket.
8. Miller and Son's Verona Brat Sale! May 21 Need volunteers 9am-3pm (sale is 10am-2pm). 15 Volunteers needed, watch Facebook & Website, Sign up Genius
9. Wollersheim Winery May 22 donating \$125,000 from sale Red White Blue Whiskey
10. Looking for point of contact for Brat Fest volunteers.
11. Kopke's Greenhouse Auction May 29 3:00pm
12. Memorial Day Monona Parade May 30 – Ann Badeau POC
13. Horicon Shoot for A Cause June 4th
14. Moose Breakfast and Raffle June 5th \$8 adults \$4 Children 7:45am volunteers
15. Bergamont Golf Outing June 13 there are still openings for foursomes
16. ATV Fundraiser June 25 Rustic Saloon
17. Rock the Ramp July 22 – gates open at 5pm same laser show as Alliant Center
18. Dream Team – fundraiser for Pre Badger Game Jill & Jim Mason dates passed out for home games.
19. Medical Report adding personnel for May & June Flight
20. Staying at Cottage Grove June, July & Aug and then Rex Sept – did not know about Karaoke
21. Fallen Veterans – we lost a member of our own Mike Slechta
22. Administration: Flown 3540 Vets through our April flight. Waitlist: 1236
23. Flight days merchandise table and cart – volunteers needed
24. New clothing arriving in June and July- help needed to fold clothing
25. Inventory – purchase orders needed for fundraising orders/events
26. Bea & Julie had a t-shirt made for the Women's Flight
27. 2022 first weekday flight – well received
28. BG Joane Matthews and Mary Kolar will be on May Women Flight
29. Park Police will be back June 1, 2022.
30. We are still looking for a swag bag coordinator
31. Darcy Julseth - Send Off team are looking for someone to take their place



Contact the Board

Chairperson of the Board: [Fritz Wyttenbach](mailto:chairperson@badgerhonorflight.org)

chairperson@badgerhonorflight.org

Administration: [Eileen Stevens](mailto:administration@badgerhonorflight.org)

administration@badgerhonorflight.org

Medical Support: [Bob Kelter](mailto:medical@badgerhonorflight.org)

medical@badgerhonorflight.org

Secretary/ Historian: [Jackie Woodruff](mailto:secretary@badgerhonorflight.org)

secretary@badgerhonorflight.org

Volunteer Events & Communications: [Steve Bartlett](mailto:volunteerevents@badgerhonorflight.org)

volunteerevents@badgerhonorflight.org

Fundraising: [Dewy Gillette](mailto:fundraising@badgerhonorflight.org)

fundraising@badgerhonorflight.org

Inventory: [Dawn Splittgerber](mailto:inventory@badgerhonorflight.org)

inventory@badgerhonorflight.org

Treasurer: [Vern Wendt](mailto:treasurer@badgerhonorflight.org)

treasurer@badgerhonorflight.org

Flight Operations: [Jody McClain](mailto:flightoperations@badgerhonorflight.org)

flightoperations@badgerhonorflight.org

32. Nicki Sollinger and Alexis MacDonald are coming back to Madison on the May Flight to experience the Welcome home. They have coordinated our DC crew since the 2nd flight.
33. Letter to the editor from Vet who flew in April Bruce McCullick (on website under in news)
34. News Coverage for first flight. WISC also covered the flight in Madison and DC. WKOW Caroline Dade and camera woman is flying with us in May.
35. Terry Phillips Clay Shoot update within 50 people of being full.
36. Dave Kuehl – donated \$100 tonight. His brother died in Dec on waitlist and his a brother flew in April.
37. Newsletter - it will be proofed by two board members and a volunteer.
38. Honor Flight Network celebrated 250,000 Veteran flown. Here is link to view video <https://www.facebook.com/HonorFlightNetwork/videos/578627429771969/>
39. Brian Ziegler invited Sen Elizabeth Dole has been invited to meet our Vets at WWII Memorial for a May flight.
40. Hazel Zimbric Sister Georgann was on tv and people were excited to see she volunteered with us.
41. Welcome Home Sasha: Let us know if you did not receive signup genius.
42. 3,500 Veteran to fly with us was presented a cap In April from Cottage Grove VFW.

April Flight Sponsors from the 2021 Bergamont Golf Outing



The April 21, 2022 Badger Honor Flight was sponsored by the 2021 Golf Outing. This event raised over \$97,000 last year and has raised over \$438,000 since the first event in 2011.

Golf Outing Committee members were Dan Schuette as chairman and Ben Wanta, Maury Mueller, and Rachel Anderson as members.

Event sponsors were JP Cullen, M3 Insurance, and West Bend Mutual Insurance Company. A check for \$10,000 from CRESS Cremation & Funeral Services was presented at the outing. A full list of the 2021 Badger Honor Flight Golf Outing Sponsors can be found on the

badgerhonorflight.org website under the Sponsor tab.

This year's outing will be held at The Legend at Bergamont Golf Course in Oregon, WI on Monday, June 13. For more details contact chairman Ben Wanta at Bwanta@usvetllc.com Cell 608-572-6381

We Remember the Fallen

Russel Edwin Selcher Korea Army 2018-10-14 (Mission 17)

James Eugene Leary Vietnam Army Waitlist

Lowell Zirbel WWII Navy 2018-09-13 (Mission 16)

Thomas Zamzow Korea Army 2018-10-14 (Mission 17) .

Robert Sergenian Korea Army 2013-05-18 (Mission 11)

William Kroner "Bill" Mattison Korea Army 2015-10-10 (Mission 21)

Michael Slechta Vietnam Air Force 2018-10-15 (Mission 33)

Raymond Matulionis Korea Marine 2022-04-21 (Mission 40)

Badger Honor Flight Link to our Volunteer Sign ups for Events

<https://www.signupgenius.com/index.cfm?go=c.SignUpSearch&eid=0AC6CFDFFDCCFE61&cs=09B2BAD98FB8B137B7B64745BB39BCF&sortby=l.title>

Badger Honor Flight Information and Photo Gallery

<https://www.badgerhonorflight.org/flight-info-pics-new/>

<https://www.wbay.com/2022/04/22/wisconsin-veterans-honored-dc/>

**Wisconsin veterans honored in D.C. (click link above for video)
Badger Honor Flight celebrated in the nation's capital after a long
journey.** Jamie Bittner Published: Apr. 21, 2022

WASHINGTON (Gray DC) - Wisconsin veterans traveled to Washington, D.C. Thursday as part of the Badger Honor Flight.

The veterans said they experienced a mix of emotions as they visited several monuments built to honor them and the servicemen and women who never made it home. Standing at the World War II Memorial, these veterans were saluted and remembered for their courage, strength, and bravery.

Honor flights were paused for two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Badger Honor Flight has made 40 trips to Washington D.C., since 2010.

“It’s a lot of work to get it together but boy is it worth it. You’ve seen their faces while they’re walking around here. They’re having the time of their life,” said Steve Bartlett, Communication Director for the Badger Honor Flight.

Vietnam Veteran John Looze earned the distinct honor of being the 35-hundredth veteran to make the trip. “My VIP status caught me by surprise this morning,” he said as he told the Washington News Bureau he was surprised by the honor. He was given a hat to recognize the milestone that he said he will cherish for the rest of his life.

This is one of three Badger Honor Flights that will be taking place this year. The next flight on May 14th will be exclusively for the women who have served in the military. The third flight is scheduled to touch down in D.C. on June 4th.

Our Very Own John Looze Was The 3,500th Veteran Flown With Badger Honor Flight!
Congratulations John And Thank You For Your Service Goes To All Our Veterans! 🇺🇸❤️



https://www.hngnews.com/waunakee_tribune/news/local/article_4def16c4-c264-11ec-aa60-13d50cef8870.html

Lorna Bannigan: Her adult life was launched in the Navy

By [Roberta Baumann tribnews@hngnews.com](mailto:Roberta.Baumann@hngnews.com) Apr 24, 2022

The United States military has played a large role in Lorna Bannigan’s life, helping her to grow into a confident woman who could raise a family and pursue a career.



Lorna Bannigan lives in the Waunakee area today, and is grateful for the opportunity to join other women veterans on the May 14 Badger Honor Flight.

The Waunakee woman described herself as bashful at 18 years old, right out of high school, when she joined the

Navy in 1955. Growing up in Oregon, Wisconsin, she was ready for an adventure. “When I joined, my best friend was going to sign up with me but couldn’t pass the physical,” Bannigan said.

A cousin five years older whom she adored had also enlisted, and she followed in his footsteps. After being sworn in in Chicago, Bannigan went to bootcamp and dental technician school at what was then the United States Naval Training Center Bainbridge in Maryland. Bannigan said the training condensed two and a half years of college coursework into 16 weeks.

Once they graduated, the students could choose their billet, or next location, with the top students getting the first choice. Bannigan was the No. 1 student. “Luckily, I was a dental assistant in high school, so I had prior knowledge,” she said.

To her, Pensacola, Florida, seemed like the best choice.

“It sounded warm, it sounded fun, it sounded much different than Wisconsin. Off I went,” she said. Pensacola remains one of her favorite places today, with its interesting history, the Naval Air Station and beautiful beaches, she said. She worked at the Naval Air Station Pensacola as a dental technician until she married.

One day, while out with one of her dental hygienist friends at a bar, she met Aloysius Bannigan III. He was a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps stationed there. She and her friend were sharing one beer with two straws because that’s all they could afford, she said.

“He came in with a convertible, with a car-full of groceries, and was on his way home. He came in for a quick beer, and we went home with him and cooked his dinner. Three months later, we were married,” Bannigan said.

At the time, the Navy did not accept married women, so in 1957, Lorna Bannigan’s Navy career ended and her life as a military wife and mother began.

The couple had six children, and during their 10-plus years together, Bannigan III achieved the rank of Major. Maj. Bannigan’s 17-year career in the Marine Corp was cut short when he died in an airplane crash on Nov. 29, 1967, over Truax Field in Madison. Ice had formed on the wings as the plane landed. A student in the plane was ejected and injured but survived.

Bannigan was to be deployed to Vietnam and was first going to Madison to rent a house for the family. Lorna Bannigan said when her husband went on active duty, she often lived in the Madison area so her mother could help with the six children.

Nov. 29 was the day before the Bannigans' 10th anniversary.

"He said to me, there's a present for you at the BX; you can go pick it up," she said, referring to the store at the base. "It was an electric blanket. It was like it was prophetic."

Like many military families, the Bannigans moved frequently. Bannigan III had been deployed to Vietnam once before and previously to Cuba in 1962. In four and a half years, the family moved 13 times, making their home in Texas, Hawaii and other locations. When he was home, Bannigan III was an ideal father, bathing his children and caring for them, she said.

Bannigan said joining the Navy matured her.

"I had to tackle a lot of things by myself, so I had to do everything a couple would do for their children. I got them to college," she said.

Once widowed, Bannigan returned to school to earn her degree, then became a practicing dental hygienist in the civilian world.

The Navy helped her prepare for it all with bootcamp and education.

"You had to study because it was difficult, and you couldn't go anywhere. You were on the base," she said. She found lifelong friends, too, adding she has more in common with them than others she has made.

Bannigan will be one of a number of women veterans celebrated when she travels to Washington, D.C., on the Badger Honor Flight May 14. She said the flight was made possible by the generosity of Alice Ladwig, who donated the funds in her will.

Bannigan is grateful to the volunteers who make these trips special as they express their appreciation for the sacrifices veterans and their families have made, she said. Several other members of her family have also served in the Armed Forces.

Looking back, Bannigan seems to have no regrets. She said the military has taken care of her and her family.

“I loved every minute of it,” Lorna Bannigan said, adding she has returned to Pensacola and Hawaii.

“The best thing I ever did in my life was raise my hand and say, ‘I do; I will.’ It was a great life, really,” she said.

<https://www.dailyadvent.com/news/5b6511117fb55da058600f671cb730cf-Woman-in-War-Sun-Prairie-veteran-remembers-Vietnam>

Woman in War: Sun Prairie veteran remembers Vietnam

By hngnews.com April 23, 2022



“Preparing for the [Badger Honor Flight](#) has brought back a lot of memories,” [Patsy Harper](#) said. “People ask me if I would go it again—join the military—and I would. It was an honor to serve my country.”

At the 67th Evacuation Hospital in [Qui Nhon](#), Army nurse Patsy Harper was assigned to the orthopedic unit and then the ICU. With a college degree in hand, Harper was soon promoted to Captain and was named head nurse.



Patsy Harper said she was naive when she landed in Vietnam in September 1971 as a young Army nurse.

The Wisconsin native had never been out of the United States and had only graduated from the Army Student Nurse program years before.

At the 67th Evacuation Hospital in Qui Nhon, Harper was assigned to the orthopedic unit and then the ICU. With a college degree in hand, Harper was soon promoted to

Captain and was named head nurse.

“I found out that when I went to Vietnam, I didn’t have the experience. I was just thrown into things and that was scary,” Harper recalled. “The Army throws you into things, but I gained the skills and became more confident.”

Becoming a nurse Harper’s aunt Catharine Dean inspired her to join the military. She served as a nurse during World War II in the Philippines and the stories she told made her career sound interesting to Harper.

“When I was young, there were only three things you could be as a woman: a nurse, a secretary, or a teacher,” Harper said. “I thought nursing was the most exciting.”

The Wisconsin farm girl headed off to the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and in the fall of 1968 enlisted in the Army Student nurse program. The Army would pay for her last two years of college and in return, she would serve on active duty for three years.

Six months before her college graduation, Harper was commissioned as a second lieutenant, and in September 1970, headed to Fort Sam Houston Texas for six weeks of basic training. She was then stationed as a nurse in the orthopedic unit at the Valley Forge Army Medical Center in Pennsylvania.

Harper, who was just 23 years old, cared for soldiers returning from Vietnam, some as young as 18 years old, with missing fingers and other injuries.

“The soldiers developed a camaraderie during the months they were going through reconstructive surgery,” Harper remembers. “I think that helped them transition back to civilian life.”

Even though a war was going on, Harper didn’t think she would be sent to Vietnam.

But with not enough nurses volunteering to go to Vietnam, Harper received orders in June 1971 to go to Vietnam, just as she received the news that a high school friend had died there.

Talking with her nursing friends who had been stationed in Vietnam eased Harper’s mind over her upcoming deployment. Her friends didn’t talk about the casualties but instead boasted of the good times they had going out to Saigon restaurants and attending parties.

“It wasn’t like I was going to be in a war zone. I would be just like going to another hospital,” she remembers rationalizing the situation.

At the 67th Evacuation Hospital in Qui Nhon near the China Sea, Harper didn’t see the casualties that nurses and doctors saw in the hospital in Northern Vietnam.

A lot of the time she spent caring for Vietnamese children.

“When the Vietnamese children came in injured, the whole family would move in and lay on the floor next to their bed,” Harper remembered, adding that she would use hand gestures to overcome the language barrier.

American military doctors and nurses would also treat people at nearby Vietnamese hospitals.

One Christmas, Harper and other nurses joined up with a doctor dressed as Santa Claus to surprise kids at a hospital for people with leprosy.

In Vietnam, Harper depended on her colleagues to get her through.

“It was a situation, that unless you were there, you would not understand; there was a camaraderie among doctors and nurses, we looked out for one another,” Harper remembered.

Harper and her roommate shared a two-room quarter. In the second room, they created a party room where they would invite people over and dance, using a tape deck and speakers ordered from the PX catalog.

“We entertained ourselves,” Harper said. “We had to do something to get our minds off of what we were seeing.”

The 24-year-old was transferred to the 3rd Field Hospital in Saigon in January 1972. She tended to patients with malaria, and soldiers dealing with psychotic issues and drug withdrawals.

Harper remembered caring for a Vietnamese baby born with her stomach outside her body. If she hadn’t received care at a US-staffed hospital, Harper said the baby probably would have died.

Surrounded by pain and suffering, Harper tried to maintain mental balance.

“In later years working as a nurse, I learned you had to have empathy for people you care for, but you can’t get into the hole with them, that is the big thing,” Harper said.

She left Saigon in September 1972 and was stationed at Fitzsimmons Army Medical Center in Denver, where she was a clinical instructor and trained medics. She was honorably discharged from her military service a year later and started her civilian nursing career.

“There was such a divide in the politics in the United States at the time,” Harper remembers, “Some people didn’t approve of us over there. Getting out of the military and going to work in a civilian hospital, it was so different.”



Harper heads to Washington D.C. –

On May 14, the Sun Prairie resident will be on the first all-female veterans’ Badger Honor Flight. She told her two sons to decide which one will join her on the flight. Shaun, her youngest, will get the honor.

Harper hasn’t been to Washington D.C. since the Vietnam War memorial was built, and she expects to be emotional as she looks up names on the wall of military men and women who died.

Harper hasn’t talked about Vietnam before, but now she wants to tell her kids and grandkids about her military service, and also about Aunt Catharine, the World War II nurse.

With luck, Harper also hopes to connect with other Vietnam War nurses on the May Badger Honor Flight and share her experiences.

“I think it is neat that the Badger Honor Flight is honoring women because they have played such an important part in the United States military,” Harper said. “ I am very honored to go on this flight.”

Harper has sifted through photos and memorabilia from her military service and her time in Vietnam. When she first came back to the United States from overseas, memories popped up in her head regularly but lessened as the years passed.

“Preparing for the Badger Honor Flight has brought back a lot of memories,” Patsy Harper said. “People ask me if I would go it again—join the military—and I would. It was an honor to serve my country.”

SUN PRAIRIE STAR

the Sun Prairie Journal

Wednesday, April 20, 2022
Honoring veterans



Xi Beta Kappa social and service sorority chapter of Beta Sigma Phi met in person recently to send cards to members of the Badger Honor Flight thanking them for their service. Left to right: Rosalie Sandora, Vicki Olson, Mary Liebig, and Kathy Krueger.